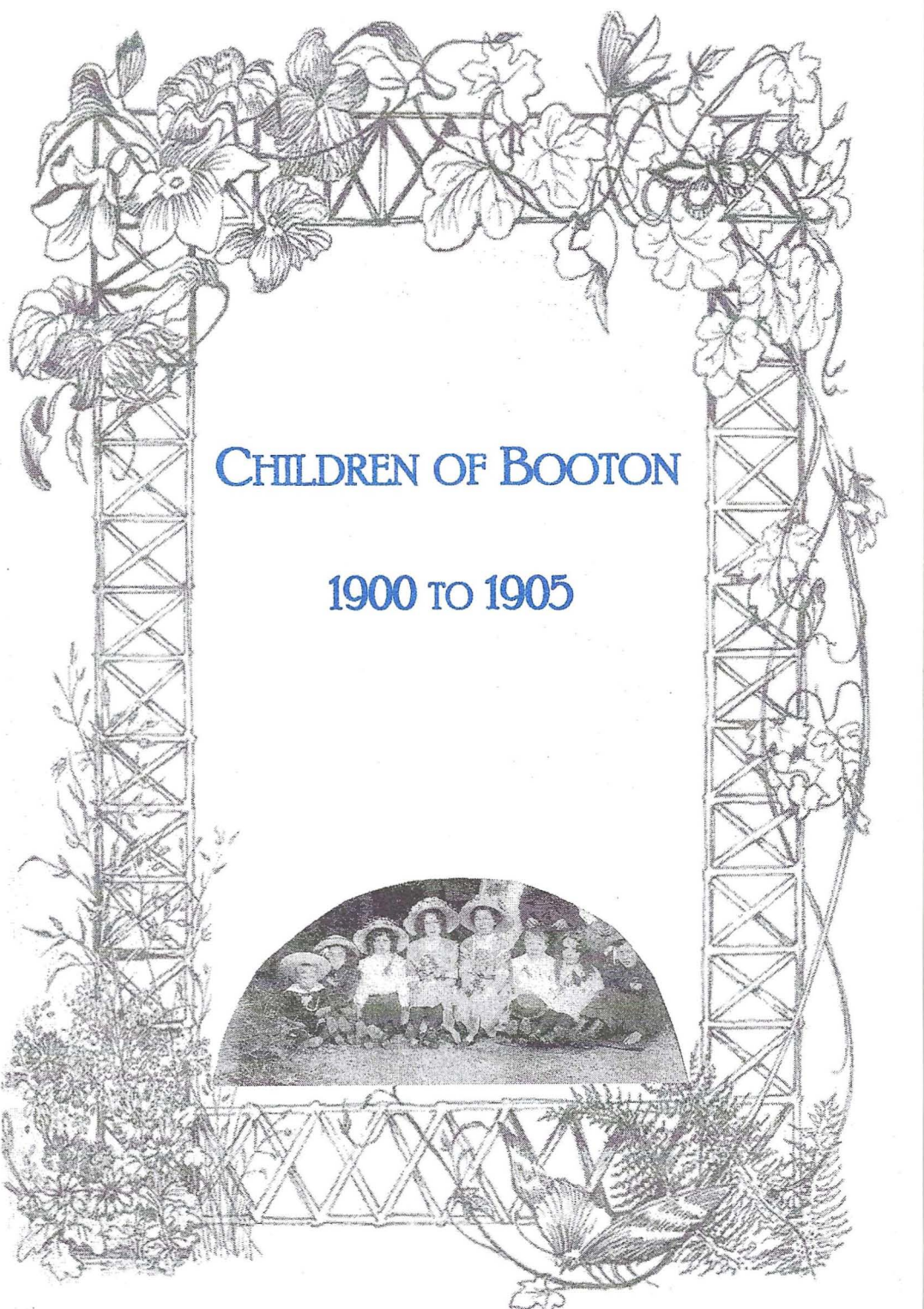
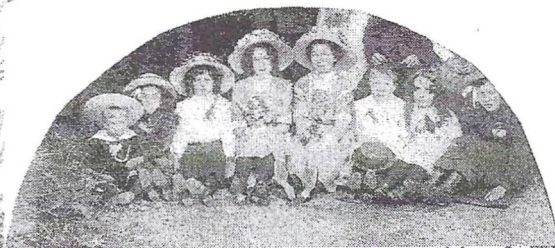




CHILDREN OF BOOTON

1900 TO 1905



THE CHILDREN OF BOOTON
AT SCHOOL BETWEEN 1900-1905

EXTRACTS FROM
ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
MONTHLY PAPERS

BY REV. W. ELWIN

Researched with drawings by Lorna Gray
2006

FOREWORD: BOOTON IN 1900

In 1900 Booton is a very small village of around 40 households and 100 souls, The village is located one mile south-east of Reepham which is eleven miles north-west of Norwich in Norfolk. As a Parish it spreads over a large area of 1,079 acres.

The village consists of a number of separate groups of houses without a central green. Some dwellings cluster around Town Farm, run by Mr Horace Howard, on the Norwich Road, while Booton Hall, a large red-brick building, is the home of a farmer, Frederick Richmond esq.

The Manor House, home of Fountain P Elwin, stands in its own large grounds near Rev. Elwin's group of Victorian buildings; the School House and School, the Church and Rectory, with its twenty-three acres of gardens and glebe.



Further along Church Road is Miss E. A. Holley's residence, and the farm cottages built for the farm workers in Grove Road and Grove Farm owned by Mr William Ireland Gay. The village has a Post Office operated by Mr Charles John Flatman, a Public House, the Kings Head, run by Mr Robert Starman and small shop run by Mr Thomas Long. There are some clay pits plus more dwellings and farms further afield.



The Rev. Whitwell Elwin rebuilt the neglected old church over the past twenty-five years. It is now a fine building of flint with stone dressings, consisting of a chancel, nave, north porch and western towers with all the windows stained, and seating for 230 worshippers. The Dedication Festival of the church was held on 30th September, dedicated to St. Michael the Angel. Sadly our Rector passed away this year 1900, aged 83.

Queen Victoria's long reign comes to an end and Edward VII's coronation festivities are delayed due to his ill health but are eventually celebrated with the Holy Eucharist at 9am, Evensong at 2pm followed by meat tea, sports and fireworks.

The Boer War which started in 1899 is being fought and Mr F Coe and Mr J Peeling, who are on reserve list have been called to South Africa. Mr Wesley Carson has joined Baden Powell's Police Force and in South Africa while Sergeant Allenden, of the Royal Field Artillery is recommended for Distinguished Conduct for Gallantry.

There are local charities resulting from 19 acres of Common Land which were allotted to Trustees in 1811 for the benefit of the poor. The Poor Fund helps towards a Clothing Club Bonus, Meat and Coal.

The Annual Interest from Sewell's Bread Charity supplies bread to eleven very poor families.. The distribution is made at the discretion of the vicar. In spite of local poverty there are collections for the Poona Mission and help is given to help pay for an Indian Boy's education.

There is much going on in the village as there is a Parish Library; a Women's Working Party on Monday and Girl's Sewing Class sewing for Missions; The Men's Night School on Friday; Sunday School and Singing Class on Thursday and a Men's Social Evening. The Clothing Club has 105 members of whom 37 pay 2d. a week and get 12s. 8d. tickets and 68 pay 1d. and get 6s. 6d. tickets. Of the members 40 are Cottagers and 65 belong to the Singing Class and Sunday School.

Children are free to wander about the countryside and think nothing of walking long distances across the fields. Every child between 5 and 14 must attend the National School built in 1897 where Mrs Isabel M Gough is the Mistress in charge.

Compulsory elementary education was introduced by the Education Acts of 1876 and 1880 because so many children were illiterate and found working at an early age in dangerous and dreadful conditions or involved in crime.

There are no exceptions under the age of 11. Up to age 13 there are various restrictions as to employment; the pupil has to have passed a Labour Certificate, or have reached the 4th Standard, or have 350 attendances each year for five years before they may leave school.

Much consideration is given to learning the Catechism and Quarterly Certificates are given for each 100 marks gained. Absenteeism is frowned upon as it deprives the school of Grant Aid. The school was built for 90 children but only about 75 attend, and in 1900 the average attendance was 63.

The School building is under repair. It has been impossible to hand the premises over to Trustees as there are legal difficulties owing to the way the property has been left in the late Rector's will. To preserve the School's connection with the Church, the Squire is to keep the Deeds in his own hands at present. Mr Edward Barrett, the farmer at Furze Lane, collects the Voluntary School Rate which Miss Holley tops up with a 'Liberal Donation'.

Miss Holley who was born in 1853 now lives at the Green Lane House, later to be known as "The Hollies" and gives the present Rector, much support in funds to the church, the villagers and especially to the children of Booton.

The following pages take a look at their lives in the first years of the 20th Century as the new Rector, W Elwin writes in the Parish Diary, 'St Michael the Archangel, Monthly Papers'. This book is dedicated to The Children of Booton

Lorna Gray, resident of Booton 2006

INTRODUCTION 1900

The extracts from the Monthly Papers start in July 1900. A major and recurring focus through the papers is the level of funding required to maintain the local school. The situation is made more difficult due to the poor attendance of some of the pupils.

JULY 1900

"The irregularity of some children still causes a good deal of trouble and loss. It does not seem as if treats were altogether good for a school. The day before tea in May there were 80 children present, and on the next Monday morning there were 44. This shows it is a mistake to give a treat to those that are not steadily regular through the year."

Baptisms

"The rule of the Prayer Book is that Baptisms should be on "Sundays or Holy Days, when the most number of people come together". So when a weekday is preferred, it is best to choose a Saint's Day. The Prayer Book says people are to be admonished not to put off the Baptism of their children longer than the first or second Sunday after their birth. It is not always possible to arrange for the Baptism so soon, but it should take place as soon as possible."

A Parish Library through a kind gift of books

At present the books are mostly for children, and are lent to the members of the Sunday afternoon Catechism, being changed in the vestry. As the Library increases, we hope to make it useful to a larger circle of readers.

AUGUST 1900

Miss Holley's Treats

"Miss Holley has most generously given her annual treats to the Sunday School, Choir and Singing Class.

On Saturday July 21st, she arrived to her house all the younger children, and those not qualified by attendances for the sea-side outing. After an excellent tea, the children played about very happily in the grounds. They numbered just sixty.

On Saturday, July 28th, the older detachment went to Lowestoft, the party starting from Reepham and Cawston Stations by train. It numbered altogether 68 persons. A threatening morning turned into a beautiful day. An excellent dinner and tea were provided. The rest of the time was spent as days at the sea-side usually are spent. Everything went off exceedingly well, and everybody enjoyed the day. The whole of it was Miss Holley's kind gift, and her generosity was greatly appreciated."

The Catechism

"The Quarterly Festival of the afternoon Sunday Catechism was held on Sunday July 29th. Certificates are given to the children for every 100 marks obtained for verbal answers and written "analyses". The following were given out:

Ernest George Groom earned in 10 Sundays; and James Bunting, in 12 Sundays. The work of the past quarter was gone through in question and answer".

The Annual Grant

The annual grant amounted to £64 8s. 6d. About £20 has been lost in Grant by irregular children.

The School Rate

"The school rate is a voluntary rate as the ratepayers have been saved a considerable sum by the Booton school, and the separation of this parish from the area of the Reepham School Board. It is confidently expected that all will be willing to pay it cheerfully. The Squire having generously decided to ask no rent for the buildings, it has been possible to put the rate at a lower figure than most school rates, so that it will not press heavily on anyone.

The parents of irregular children may be reminded that quite 1d of the rate is caused by irregularity. The attendance has improved this last month."

Baptisms

- June 25th Horace, son of Robert & Jane Ann Fuller (privately).
July 4th John George Redvers, son of John & Annie Allenden.
July 15th Amy May, daughter of Elijah & Georgina Baxter.

Burials

Horace Fuller aged 2 months.



SEPTEMBER 1900

"It has been found impossible to hand over the buildings to the Trustees, as the Squire intended, without great legal difficulties and risks, owing to the way in which the property has been left, under conditions, by the late Rector's will. It is thought safer, for the purpose of preserving them for their use as a school in connection with the church, that he should keep them in his own hands at present. He will allow the school the free use of them, so this will make no difference, and hereafter it may be possible to make a permanent arrangement for securing them to the church"

OCTOBER 1900

The School

"During the school holidays the school buildings were painted and cleaned throughout, so that they were spick and span when the children returned on September 10th.

The report of the special Diocesan Examination in Religious subjects, held on June 4th, has been received. We put in five scholars, and four have passed. - Ernest George Groom is in second class. Evelyn Pigg, James Bunting and Eva Parker in the third.

As it is they have been in for a written examination of a kind, the result may be considered satisfactory.

We shall this month be asking, through Mr. Barrett's kind offices, for subscriptions in the shape of a voluntary rate, calculated at 4d in the pound. The painting of the school and several of its expenses has been defrayed by other donations so as to make the rate as low as possible. It is hoped therefore that the ratepayers of the parish will be willing to give the voluntary help asked, which is much less than would be levied under a school board rate."

Baptisms

September 2nd Sydney Ernest, son of Ernest William & Julia Capes.
September 23rd Murial Eleanor Maud, daughter of Charles James & Frances Baskett.
Mafeking Anna, daughter of John & Sarah Ann Townsend.

NOVEMBER 1900

The School

"Owing to the removal of one or two families, our numbers are reduced at present to 75, instead of 85.

There are some articles from the needlework to dispose of especially woollen work. There are not enough to make exactly a 'Sale' but they can be had at the school, at small prices by anyone who would like to apply.

It is an excellent thing for children to make up their own garments in school, if the work can be spared until it has been seen by the inspector."

The Catechism

The certificates given out on the Quarterly Festival, October 28th for each 100 marks gained were:-

Two to Ernest G Groom, earned respectively in 8 and 7 weeks;

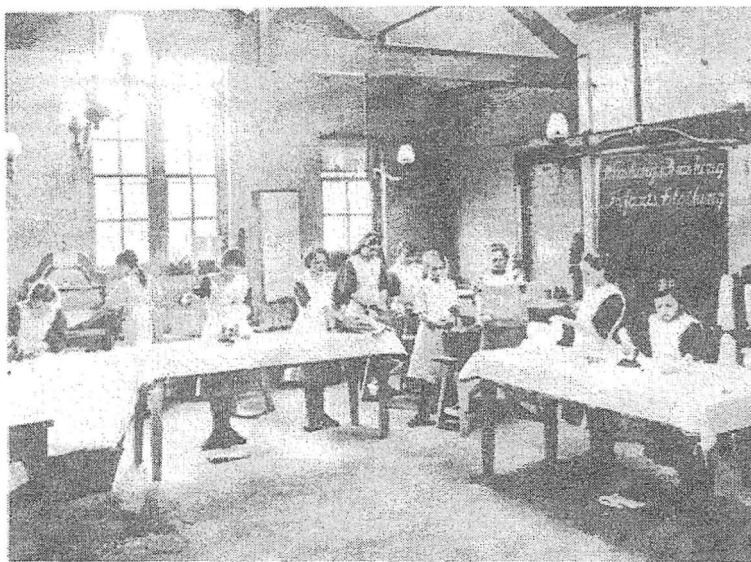
One to Eva Parker, earned in 21 weeks;

Evelyn Pigg, in 11 weeks;

Fossie Gough, in 16 weeks.

"Except where analyses are written the marks mount up very slowly, and therefore, in spite of much excellent answering in church, several are still working up their hundreds by very slow degrees.

The Technical Education Committee under the County Council, give three months training to a certain number of girls in cookery, laundry etc work, without fee, at an establishment in Norwich. Girls must be 14 years of age."



DECEMBER 1900

The School

H. M. Sub-Inspector Mr Harrison, visited the school on Tuesday November 20th. He made criticisms and ordered a fresh timetable to be made out of some work, in order to suit the present mode. On the whole he

thought the school quite up on average and in some respects above. He called special attention to the case of a child who had been taken away from the school under age and said the Managers would be required to give a more satisfactory reason than appeared as yet, before the next School Grant was recommended.

We acknowledge a liberal donation of £10 to the school from Miss Holley.

Author's Notes 1900

Queen Victoria died 22nd January 1901, aged 81, on the Isle of Wight, having reigned since 1837. For most people she had been Monarch all their lives. Edward VII as Prince of Wales, had waited to become King, much like the present Prince Charles, until he was 60 years old.

The Boar War was fought in South Africa 1899 – 1902 between Dutch settlers and the British Army.

For a Bread Charity and a Clothing Club to have operated in Booton, there must have been some very poor people in the village at the beginning of the Twentieth Century.

Poona is the English spelling of Pune in India – Booton village was supporting an Indian boy called Nicomende.

Before the arrival of cinema, radio and TV, people entertained themselves by playing musical instruments and singing, and attending social activities which were an essential aspect of village life.

The extracts from the Monthly Papers start in July 1900. A major and recurring focus through the papers relate to the level of funding required to maintain the local school.

School Reserve Fund

RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Balance, Jan 1 st 1900	109	1	2	W. Gidney, Well Sinking	9	18	6
				F. Gunton, Repairs	18	18	4
				F. Coe, Painting	22	10	0
				Balance in hand	57	14	4
	£109	1	2		£109	1	2

Day School

	RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance, Jan 1 st 1900	64	12	4	Salaries	127	5	0
Government Grants	100	10	6	Rates, Rent, and Insurance	7	2	9
Voluntary Rate	20	4	6½	Furniture and Repairs	27	5	6
Donations	15	0	0	Books and Stationery	12	18	1½
Sales of Needlework	0	11	3	Fuel and Cleaning	22	12	1
				Balance in hand	3	15	2
	£200	18	7½		£200	18	7½

Sunday School

	RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.		EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Donations		12	10	0	Salaries		12	10	0
Offeratories		0	13	1	Catechism Papers, etc		0	12	6
					Balance in hand		0	0	7
		£15	3	1			£15	3	1

INTRODUCTION 1901

For 1901 school funding and attendance is still a concern but so also are the standards being achieved, the outcome of the Annual School Report and the Report from the Diocesan Inspector.

The 'Treats' from Miss Holley the local benefactor continue and there are interesting references to the choir and the School Savings Bank.

Author's Notes 1901

School Attendance: For children aged between 10 and 12, a minimum of 250 attendances per annum had to be made, while for over-12's the figure was 150. Legal exemption from school could thus only be granted on a part-time basis if the child had passed the age of eleven and if the specific attendance had been completed. Complete exemption below the age of 14 depended on the child passing the 'Labour Certificate' at the standard laid down by the education by-laws in his/her school district (usually Standard IV or V) or having reached 13 and made the 150 attendances per annum for the previous five years.

In 1862, Robert Lowe – Vice-President of the Committee of Council produced his Revised Code with a set of rules for schools to obey before they received any grant. It was a system of payment by results. Every year an Inspector would visit the school and give the children an examination in reading, writing and arithmetic – the famous Three R's. These were arranged according to the Standards. Money could be lost if a pupil failed any one of the three subjects.

For every pass in each subject the Government paid 2s. 8d. So a child who passed in all three subjects earned eight shillings for his school. After 1890 the Three R's Grant itself was replaced by higher payments for attendance and an additional 'discipline and organisation' criterion. The Fixed Grant was 4s. 6d. for each pupil so altogether a good pupil could earn 12s. 6d. for the school. By 1901 these sums had nearly doubled so it was vital that children had good attendance. Such grants made a huge difference to schools which could then spend it on books, fuel, school equipment and the building.

A Voluntary School: These were built and looked after by voluntary organisations with trustees. They depended on Government Grants and money given voluntarily by private individuals. The majority of these schools belonged to the Church of England. Where such schools were unable to meet the needs of the locality, a School Board was elected from among the ratepayers who financed the school partly out of rates, and enforced attendance by all children over the age of five. After 1893 full-time attendance was required for children between five and eleven.

Diocesan Examination in Religious Education

The School Rate: This was a voluntary amount paid by the adults in the village to support the school. In the case of Booton, the local Rector, had the school built in 1896 and left it to the Squire who didn't charge a rent so the rate was very small. This subscription was calculated at 4d. in the pound, much less than a School Board Rate. School Boards also charged school fees.

Singing Class: Considerable time was devoted to this; songs chosen varied according to the taste of the teacher. Well-known titles such as 'The Daisy', 'Fresh Air', 'It's Never Too Late to Mend', 'If I were a Sunbeam', 'The Ash

Grove' were sung. One that most people today have heard of is 'Home Sweet Home'. In prosperous schools singing would be accompanied by a harmonium or a piano.

Catechism: In Victorian Britain, many schools belonged to the Church of England so they taught the Anglican version of Christianity. A very important part of this was the Catechism which you will find in the Prayer Book. It was a subject in itself: children were tested on it and awarded marks and Certificates for their knowledge. It was used as a means of instructing children in the basics of the Christian Creed often as preparation for baptism or confirmation – in the form of questions and answers.

The Annual Grant: The first grants to schools were made in 1833. They were very small and intended to help new schools pay for their buildings. In 1861 the Government appointed a Royal Commission to see how this money was being spent. The Newcastle Commission, (after its Chairman Lord Newcastle) concluded that schools were not doing their job properly because many children drifted in and out of school, or stayed away truanting. Many pupils left school illiterate and ignorant.

Standards: These ranged from I (mainly for 7 to 8 year olds) to VII (13 to 14 year olds). To move up the child had to pass an examination conducted by the Inspector. If the pupil failed he stayed in the class at that level even if this meant being with younger children. Bright children could jump standards and might find themselves working with pupils three years older.

Sunday School: Up until the 1970's (date correct?) most children in the countryside below the age of eleven still attended this Sabbath-day refuge from the lengthy Church Service. Most of the time was taken up with Scripture reading from the Bible and study in the Catechism. Prizes were given and there would be a Sunday School treat.

Choir: During the 19th century choir festivals became a popular feature of musical life, promoting mixed-voice singing by amateur groups. It continued a long tradition of sacred music – responses, hymns and psalms – sung by choirs in churches and cathedrals. The lack of musical instruments and other entertainment made this a popular past-time from childhood onwards.

JANUARY 1901

"Every child between 5 and 14 must go to school, or in some way receive 'efficient instruction', unless exempted for some reason. There are no exemptions under 11 and up to 13. There are various restrictions as to the employment of children who are partly or entirely exempted from attending school in one of three ways. Either first, having passed for a Labour Certificate or second having reached at least the 4th standard or 3rd having made 350 attendances each year for the five years preceding.

At 14 a child is free from attendance under any circumstances."

Baptisms

December 23rd Ernest George Ivor, son of Edward & Ethel Coe.

Also Reginald Solomon, son of Solomon & Mabel Amy Jefferies.

FEBRUARY 1901

The Catechism

At the Quarterly service on January 27th there were 19 certificates to give away.

The following received Certificates:- John Long, Edward Baxter, Ernest Groom, William Hardingham, William Townsend, Lancelot Gough, G. William Hall, Reginald Baker, Victoria Allenden, Emma Lee, Eva Parker, Evelyn Pigg, Ella Curson, Fossie Gough, Violet Allenden, Alice Smith and Ivy Pigg.

MARCH 1901

This has been a trying month for school attendance. On the day of our heaviest snow we had to close one afternoon. Considering how bad the weather was, and the distance many had to come, the attendance has been creditable.

The Board of Education has allowed £6.12s. Aid Grant to the school for the infants' desks and seats ordered last year. This about pays for them, and it comes usefully as we are rather exceeding our income this year, most of the school expenses having increased.

MAY 1901

The Catechism

"The children entitled to certificates at the Quarterly Festival on April 28th are:-

C. Edward Baxter Robert Hudson, Launcelot Gough, William Townsend, George Waller, John Long, Reginald Baker, Victoria Allenden, Eva Parker, May Townsend, Gertrude Webb, Alice Smith, Fossie Gough, Ivy Pigg, Ella Curson.

Baptisms

Edwin Herbert Threlfall.

JUNE 1901

The Managers at the meeting on May 3rd were the Rector, Miss Holley, Mr Richmond and Mr Barrett. The matters before them were almost all business details of no special interest to report. It was discussed whether cottage gardening should be added to the subjects but it was considered that the number of boys eligible for it, under the new code would be too few to be worth the difficulties of carrying it out.

The Managers approved a suggestion for the opening of a Savings Bank for the children in connection with the school. It was decided to give certificates to all those who had made above 90 per cent attendance last year".

The following eight children made over 95% attendances during the last school year, out of a possible 438:-

Walter Lee 436,
Fossie Gough and Hilda Long 432,
Ella Curson and John Long 428,
Flossie Bateman 426,
Eva Whyer 422,
Clara Curson 420.

The following nine made between 90 & 95%:-

Harriet Lee 414,
Florence Smith 413,
Reginald Watkin 411,
Ernest Gaskin 409,
Eliza Beckerton 408,
Albert Blyth and Eva parker 407,
Florence Watkin 406,
George Bateman 405.

It will be observed that only two boys made 95% and only three of the whole 17 belong to any standard higher than a 3rd. This is unsatisfactory. The attendance has improved but it is far from satisfactory. About £10 has been lost through absences for insufficient reasons.

JULY 1901

The Day School

The annual report was received on June 8th. It runs as follows:

Mixed school - Discipline is satisfactory, and instruction is given in a careful and accurate manner.

Infant class - The improvement noticed in the last year's report has been well maintained. The infants are under suitable discipline and are nicely taught.

This is a very good report and does credit to the teacher.

"The Board of Education has paid the highest of the two grants, 22 shillings for each of the older scholars and 17 shillings for each of the infants in average attendance. The only thing to regret is that our average attendance was only 84% and it ought to be 90. There are nearly always children playing about in the village who ought to be at school and as long as this is so, the school will be difficult to carry on."

The new admissions since April 30th are :-

Percival Baxter, Edward George Woods, William Bacon, Grace Thetford, Maud Tubby, Rosalia Baxter, Grace Allenden, Victoria Allenden.

Two of the scholars Robert Hudson and Edith Tubby have obtained Labour Certificates, exempting them from further attendance. Besides these the following have left since April 30th, qualified in other ways; C Edward Baxter, George Waller, Minnie Hall, Blanch Woods, Ruth Fields and Florence Allenden.

"The Diocesan Inspection by the Rev J. H. Beevor will be on Wednesday July 3rd in the morning.

Every child should be sent to school that morning without fail,
This is important.

AUGUST 1901

The School

"The following is the report of the Diocesan Inspector, The Rev John H Beevor, on the religious instructions at the school-"The school passed a very good examination. The Infants were mostly ready with their answers and did extremely well. The knowledge of the standards showed improvement as their answers, when taken a little out of the general track of lessons, were both thoughtful and intelligent.

I was pleased to find the Prayer Book subject taken. The discipline and tone of the school are excellent."

The summer holidays will be fixed so as to fit in with the harvest they will last for 4 weeks.



Miss Holley's Treats

"By the kindness of Miss Holley a party of 52 children mostly the younger ones in the school were entertained at Green Lane House on Saturday July 6th. After tea the children had games and races for a liberal allowance of prizes.

On July 20th her generous annual gift of a seaside excursion to Lowestoft for the older children together with members of her singing class, was repeated this year. The party numbered 60 - half went from Reepham Station and half from Cawston.

The weather was beautiful and the day was greatly enjoyed. Miss Holley provided the party with an excellent dinner and tea besides making all the arrangements with the railway. One boy slipped into deep water near the pier from which some man fortunately fished him out in time, he thus happily escaped without serious damage. Otherwise we had no accidents or disappointments. The whole party is very grateful to Miss Holley for her generous kindness".

The Choir

The following boys have been added to the weekday surpliced choir:-
Bertie Keeler, Montague Fieldon, Reginald Baker.

SEPTEMBER 1901

A Savings Bank in connection with the school will be opened on September 9th. Any child whose name is on the school books can pay in any sums or draw out any part of the account at any time that the bank is held, on production of the Savings Bank card on which all entries will be made.

As an encouragement to save interest will be allowed on sums in the bank on the last day of February and the last day of August, at the following rate;

1d on 1s and 1d on each complete 2s, beyond - that is, 2d on 3s, 3d on 5s, 4d on 7s and so on.

The total sum to which interest will be restricted will not be fixed at present. The bank will be held in school on Mondays after morning service.

OCTOBER 1901

School Attendance

The new bye-laws of the St Faiths School Attendance Committee under which we are, have now been sanctioned by the Board of Education and are in force.

The School Savings Bank

Has opened very well. The first day there were twenty depositors and over 5 shillings was put in. Since then others have joined, so that about half the children have an account in it. A Savings Bank is therefore an excellent part of children's training for managing their money.

A Night School

Will be held at the rectory on Friday evenings at 7pm, commencing Oct 11th. It will be open to lads who have left school and are resident in the parish of Booton.

NOVEMBER 1901

The Choir

"In a parish like ours it must always be a small choir but probably it will be sufficient for this purpose, which is all we require, eight boys have been working at it steadily for the last 3 months and a ninth - Herbert Pye has just been added to it."

The Day School

The following have left; Eva Parker for service, and Alice Smith, Gertrude Webb and Charles Self. Alice and Edward Green have been admitted.

DECEMBER 1901

The Day School

A Managers meeting was held on Tuesday October 29th at 7.30pm in the school-room.

Present: W. Elwin (in the Chair), Miss Holley, Mr F Richmond and Mr Barrett.

Mr Horace Howard was prevented from attending by the death of his father, Mr Howard of Cawston.

The school will break up for its Christmas Holiday on Friday December 20th. During school holidays, if any of the children want to attend the Savings Bank, they should come to the Rector's Study door, at Rectory on Mondays, between 12.00 and 12.30pm.

INTRODUCTION 1902

The recently formed Choir comes into its own in 1902 and is rewarded early in the year with a 'holiday'

An Industrial Exhibition in April engages 48 villagers in a range of competition events. One wonders how much excitement knife polishing and boot cleaning competitions would evoke amongst 21st Century children. Perhaps the cricket match would be a little more to their liking?

JANUARY 1902

Christmas

Having the advantage of a choir, we began the Festival on Christmas Eve, with a sung Evensong, followed by carols. The carols this year, both then and on other days, have been sung separate from the service, at the end, instead of during the service, as in former years. The choir-boys have been singing them very nicely. The Church looked well with simple decorations. We only had 15 Communicants, and the congregations were not very large on Christmas Day, but the services were bright and hearty.

On Saturday December 28th, the scholars in the Sunday School were invited to Tea at Green Lane House. After enjoying this, a performance was given by Day School children, under the Teacher's management. In spite of the wet night the room was closely packed with parents and friends.

The programme began with a pretty Recitation, welcoming the audience, by seven girls. The Infants sang three songs, and performed some excellent drill under Miss Gough's superintendence, besides contributing two Recitations. The girls under Mrs Isabel Gough's direction did some pretty Fan Drill. Mr Gough, Mr H Gough and Miss F Gough sang and recited during the evening. The whole went well and gave much entertainment.

FEBRUARY 1902

Baptisms

December 8th Harriet Easton Lee, daughter of John & Ellen Francis Lee
January 9th Herbert Jack Newton

The Choir

Went for a holiday to Norwich on January 4th, and after inspecting the Cathedral and Museum, spent the afternoon at Gilbert's Circus.

The Day School

In consequence of the Inspector's objection to our using children still under instruction to help in the Infant Schoolroom, an older girl is now being employed for the purpose. At present Edith Tubby is engaged on the work.

Our numbers are still slightly reduced by sickness and removals. The Board of Education has sanctioned Aid Grant to the School this year, to the amount of £8. 10s. to be used for specified purposes.

The Sunday School Party

The Infants did their part capitally, especially in 'Busy People'. The boys gave a good exhibition of the new Physical Drill. Among the Recitation, 'Patchwork' by E. Beckerton and E. Flatman, was particularly well done. Two little pieces were nicely acted: 'Dr Killumquick' by S. Baxter, W. Lee, D. Hall, A. Townsend, H. Lee, A. Tubby and A. Bacon; and 'A Different Sorts of People' by J. Long, R. Baker and H. Seeley.



MARCH 1902

School Savings Bank

The result of our first half-year's experiment of this bank has been that £7.17s. 8d has altogether been paid in, and £1. 16s. 1d has been drawn out, leaving a balance of £6 still on deposit.

APRIL 1902

Industrial Exhibition

It seems that we are going to take Aylsham by storm on April 2nd, as we have no less than 48 competitors – one quarter of our population – going in for the Industrial Exhibition.

Division II

Hilda Everett – *Piece Rug & Pin Cushion*

Mrs. Gaff – *Piece Rug*

Mrs. Thetford, Mrs. Fred Coe – *Patchwork Cushion*

Florence Townsend – *Patchwork*

Division III

Mrs. Bacon – *Nightdress*

Mrs. Thetford and Miss E. M. Holley – *Child's White Dress*

Mrs. J. Groom and Mrs. Hardingham – *Man's Shirt*

Division IV

Jane Coe – *Pair of Stockings and Muffatees*

Mrs. Barrett – *Vest*

Mrs. Hudson – *Counterpane*

Division V

Mrs. Gaskins, Mrs. Stackwood, Mrs. Smith – *Bread*

Mrs. Hudson – *Plain Cake*

Division VI

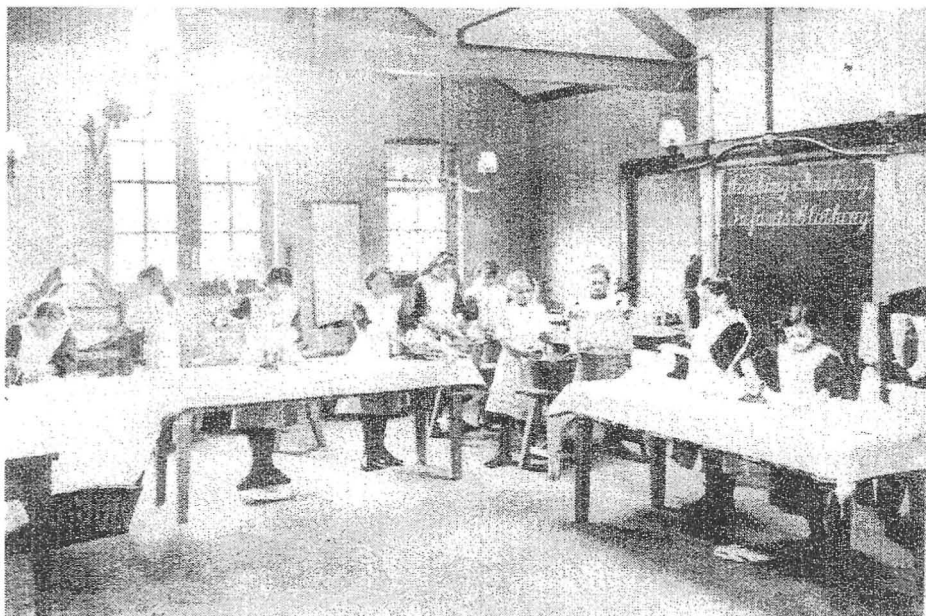
Miss Gough – *Piano Solo*

Division VII

Violet Allenden, Ella Cuson, Fossie Gough, Madeleine Baxter, Ivy Pigg, Ethel Flatman, Elizabeth Beckeston, Albina Tubby, Harriet Lee, Eleanor Pye, Daisy Hall, Florence Smith, Nellie Waller, Flossie Bateman, Eva Whyr, Ida Hudson, Mabel Flatman, Daisy Tubby, Winnie Stackwood – *Pinafore*
Hilda Long – *Dressed Doll*

Division VII

Monty Fieldon, Albert Watkins, Walter Waller, Bertie Blyth, Sydney Baxter, Alfred Townsend, George Bateman – *Knife Polishing*
Herbert Pye, John Long, Ernest Gaskins – *Boot Cleaning*



MAY 1902

Aylsham Exhibition

We were fortunate in carrying off the following prizes:

Miss Gough – 1st prize for piano solo

Mrs J. Groom – 3rd prize for plain needlework

Mrs. Pritchard and Miss E. M. Holley were highly commended.

The smallpox rumours prevented the attendance of our young competitors in boot and knife cleaning.

JUNE 1902

Baptisms

March 30th – Easter Day

Edward Henry, son of Charles Edward & Elizabeth Stackwood

Eliza Augusta, daughter of Ernest William & Julia Capes

Alice Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas William & Emma Eliza Hawes

May 18th – Whit Sunday

Mildred Maud and Frederick, daughter and son of Walter William & Ellen Maria Walker

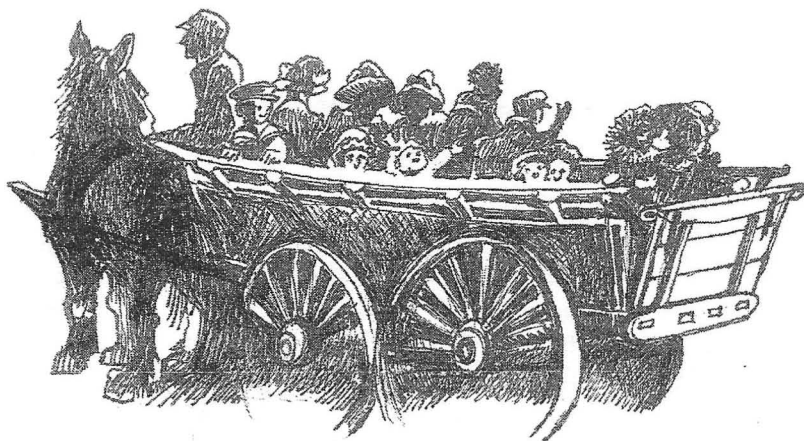
Burial

April 29th – Alice Elizabeth Hawes, aged 3 months.

AUGUST 1902

Miss Holley's Treats

Owing to our narrow escape of serious accident at Lowestoft last year, Miss Holley decided to take the school children, thus dividing the party into an elder and younger division. The Cromer trip took place on Saturday July 26th, provisions being taken by Miss Holley, as in former Cromer expeditions. The journey was made from Whitwell Station, the long distance children being driven by wagon.



The elder division, which consists this year of men and lads, will go to Lowestoft on August 2nd.

The small children's home treat will be at Miss Holley's house on some date to be fixed.

SEPTEMBER 1902

Baptisms

August 3rd ~ Bertrand Frank, son of Ernest & Edith Maud Dawson
 August 10th ~ Frederick George, son of Frederick George & Julia Jolley
 Helen Winifred, daughter of James Robert & Maria Elizabeth Thetford.

Burial

August 18th ~ Mafeking Anna Townsend, aged 2 years.
 The little child died on August 15th from the effects of being kicked by a horse. We are very sorry to have to record so sad an accident.

Cricket

Thanks to Mr. Richmond's kindness, a fair amount of cricket has been played on the lawn this summer, and some of the lads begin to play creditably. A match was got up with a team of Reepham boys, and played on the Reepham cricket ground, on August 14th. Reepham won the toss and went in first.

Reepham XI

W Austin	b. Hall	1
N Cornell	c. Richmond	0
S Barnes	b. Richmond	4
L Howell	b. Richmond	2
W Pegg	b. Hall	3
F Ford	b. Richmond	0
A Rowland	run out	1
H Collison	c. Richmond	0
J Cornell	b. Richmond	1
A Self	not out	0
H Barker	c. Richmond	0
Byes		1
Total		13

Bopton XI

R Hall	b. Howell	1
W Hardingham	b. Howell	3
C Pye	b. Barnes	9
J Flatman	c. Austin	0
H Richmond	b. Austin	15
L Gough	run out	0
B Keeler	b. Cornell	0
J Long	b. Austin	3
M Fieldon	not out	0
Byes		4
Total		38



OCTOBER 1902

School Savings

In the course of the half year £6. 16s. 2d was paid by 42 depositors. Two-thirds of the children use the bank. The smallest amount paid in during the six months by one depositor was 5d, and the largest 11s. Only 19 of the 42 members have withdrawn any of their money this half year. The total withdrawals amounted to £4. 10s. 5d., leaving a balance altogether in the Bank of £8. 11s. 1d. The small interest allowed came to only 3s. 9d. The Bank seems to answer very well indeed.

DECEMBER 1902

Smoking

Someone, seeing the Report of our School Savings Bank, writes; "We were quite surprised at the amount of your Savings' Bank. I wish our town children did as well but so much goes in cheap smokes and cheap papers, that they have no money to put by."

Burial

April 4th - Ida Hudson, aged 10.

Several children at the Day School fell in at the school, under Mr. and Mrs. Gough, and followed in the funeral procession. The coffin was met at the gate by the processional cross and a few choir boys and the Rector, and a hymn was sung in the Church. Miss Gough played the Dead March as the body was taken out of Church, and a second hymn was sung at the grave.

School Savings' Bank

Easter 1901 to Easter 1902

RECEIPTS

Deposits

Donation

£ s. d.

9 3 4

0 5 1

£9 8 5

EXPENDITURE

Withdrawals

Balance in Bank

£ s. d.

3 7 9

6 0 8

£9 8 5

INTRODUCTION 1903

The records for 1903 lay out a wonderful range of events and activities for the children through the year. Clearly the measles epidemic took on serious proportions requiring the school to be closed for two weeks.

How interesting that the dates for the summer holiday are not fixed until it is clear when the harvest will start.

FEBRUARY 1903

The 'Men & Lads' party was given by Miss Holley, on December 30th. After a noble Meat Tea, they and several other guests, were entertained by a capital performance of conjuring and ventriloquism by Professor Walker. This was a new departure, and a very successful one for making an enjoyable evening.

The Sunday School Party

Given by Miss Holley on New Year's Day, began early in the afternoon, and lasted until late in the evening. Some hours were spent in games, broken by a substantial Tea. The evening performance was given by the school children, and was witnessed by a crowded audience of parents and friends. Everything was done exceeding well, thanks to the great pains given to getting it up by Mr & Mrs and Miss Gough.

Day School

The Managers met on January 5th. There was a full attendance. The chief subject was the making of returns required by the Board of Education and the County Council, under the new Act.

The most important point had reference to the new management, and application has been made to The Board of Education for an order to appoint four 'Foundation Managers'. Two others will be appointed apparently by the County Council and the Parish Meeting. Some financial business was discussed and the Chairman was empowered to have the School-House well seen to.

APRIL 1903

Harriet Lee and Harriet Gaskin have left school, having reached the age limit, Albert Watkins on a Labour Certificate and Charles and Grace Thetford on removal from the Parish. It is very inconvenient that the regulations as to school exemptions are different in St. Faith's and Aylsham Unions. Booton and Brandiston children live in St. Faith's District, where the age limit is 14 and the Standard the 5th. Cawstone children live under the Aylsham rule, which is a year younger. It is best for the prospects of children if parents keep them at school till they have passed at least the 4th Standard, irrespective of age.

MAY 1903

Owing to our epidemic of Measles the school had to be closed on April 21st as there were 50 absentees. It will re-open on Monday May 4th.

Recent admissions to the school have been Thomas and George Sampson, Herbert, Arthur, Elsie, Charles and Frank Ewing.

A Cricket Club

Will be started again this year. Mr Richmond having again agreed very kindly to let us have a pitch.

(Mr Richmond lived at Booton Hall)

Burial

April 14th Ida Hudson aged 10 years.

JUNE 1903

The Catechism

Fossie Gough has been appointed an 'Assistant', on completing 100 marks. A quarterly return will be sent home at the end of each quarter showing the attendance and marks gained by each member of the Catechism.



The Cricket Club

Has made a good beginning this season, thanks to Mr Richmond's kind permission for a pitch on his grounds. Arthur Pye has kindly undertaken to act as Captain with Ernest Groom as Vice-Captain and W Townsend as Secretary.

JULY 1903

Day School

The Annual Government Report has been received. Both the departments of the school have been awarded the highest grants, amounting in all to £56. 2s, besides the Small Population Grant of £20. Thus the school is maintaining its satisfactory condition.

Trips

Some of the Church Lads made an excursion to Yarmouth by the Bure, from Wroxham on June 10th and the Choir Boys spent the afternoon of June 13th on the Broads. The first party had the best weather.

A Shorthand Certificate for Proficiency in 'Theory' has been gained by Ernest Groom. This qualifies him for a Junior Clerkship where correspondence shorthand is required and he would be glad to hear of a suitable post.

AUGUST 1903

The girls' sewing class had an enjoyable picnic on Saturday, July 4th, under Miss Elwin's care. They drove to Felthorpe Woods where they boiled their kettle and prepared their tea under the trees. Games occupied the rest of the afternoon, and Miss Elwin took several photographs of the group.

The Day School

The holidays will have to be regulated by harvest and the date is not yet fixed at present.

We hope there will be none of the slacking off of attendances as the holidays draw near, which has happened sometimes.

SEPTEMBER 1903

A Cottage Garden and Poultry Association has been started for Cawston, Booton, Sall, Brandiston, Haveringland and Felthorpe with a Committee representing each of the Parishes.

A Show will be held in 1904. The particulars are not yet settled, but everyone had better be getting their gardens into condition for growing prize vegetables.

OCTOBER 1903

The Schools pass into the new management on 1st October. The chief change is that nearly all important matters will now be managed by the County Council and not by the local Managers. These have to meet, according to the Act, four times a year.

The Foundation Managers appointed by the owner of the buildings, are the Rector, Mr F Richmond, Miss Holley and Mrs Barrett.

The County Council Manager is Mr W Howard of the Church Farm, Brandiston.

The Parish Manager was appointed at the Parish Meeting, called for the purpose on Thursday September 24th. Mr Herbert Ewing was elected on the nomination of Mr Horace Howard, seconded by Mr James Parker.

NOVEMBER 1903

The Day School has now come under the County Council.

DECEMBER 1903

H. M. Inspector paid a surprise visit a few weeks ago in order to get specimens of stitching done, to be submitted to the Board of Education's Needlework Inspectress in London.

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INTRODUCTION 1904

The year brings some welcome introductions for the school. The Education Committee decide to adopt a recommendation for the introduction of Cottage Gardening into the curriculum for the boys. Secondly, the passing of a Bill in parliament prohibiting smoking at school seems to have been warmly welcomed by the Committee. One wonders if the Bill is still in force in the 20th Century.

JANUARY 1904

The Day School

Re-assembles on January 11th, and it is hoped that parents will do their best to improve our attendance returns by sending their children regularly. Our school ranks very low on the Education Committee's list, as regards attendance. Nearly all the schools of the district get a better percentage, and there is no reason why we should be below others. The habit of keeping children away once in a week, as it once was of no consequence makes havoc of attendance averages and adds extremely to the difficulty of the teachers in keeping up to the standard of teaching.

FEBRUARY 1904

The roadside ditch outside the school has been filled up, and a path laid... doing it ourselves under advice of the surveyor.

MARCH 1904

The School

A Manager's meeting was held on February 9th. Present – the Chairman, Miss Holley, Mr Richmond and Mr Ewing. The business was the question of whether to make the best of the field hedge against the road, or to go to the

expense of replacing it by an iron railing which would make a large hole in our reserve fund. The majority of the Committee was in favour of the railing and the Chairman and Mr Richmond were appointed a Sub-Committee to carry out the scheme. They have arranged with Messrs Boulton and Paul to provide the railing and the work will soon be completed. Mr Richmond has again most kindly given a good deal of the labour, besides the use of his carts.



Later picture of the school showing the railings – see below.

APRIL 1904

The Day School

The removal of the hedge, like all alterations involved more than could be forecasted beforehand. But the work has been worth doing. It has enlarged both playgrounds, has enabled us to improve their levels so as to drain them better, has given us a dry path outside, has led to the improvement of the road and in most people's opinion has greatly improved the appearance of the premises.

The Savings Bank

The last half-year of the Savings Bank shows increased figures. The deposits have been £4. 15s. 9d., the withdrawals have been £2. 7s. 3d. The number on the books is 35 and the balance in the bank is £9. 5s. 6½d.

Easter 1903 to Easter 1904

Day School

RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance, Easter 1903	12	1	1½	Repairs & Alterations	24	3	7
Collection	2	8	0½	Salaries & Maint'ce to Sept	82	11	0½
Donation	2	0	0	Supplies)	7	11	2
Grants etc to Sept 1903	96	18	3	Rates, Insurance etc	3	15	7
Rent of School House	5	0	0	Balance in Hand	0	6	0½
				In Hand	34	5	7
	£118	7	5		£118	7	5

Sunday School

RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance, Easter 1903	0	0	3½	Assistance	10	0	0
Offeratories	0	13	3½	Coal & Cleaning	0	12	0
Donations	10	0	0	Education Committee payments	1	0	0
Deficit, Easter 1904	0	18	5				
	£11	12	0		£11	12	0

School Reserve Fund

RECEIPTS				EXPENDITURE			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
School Buildings	54	4	6	Boulton & Paul Railings	15	8	0
Balance Sunday School	10	0	0	Labour & Materials	5	16	0
				Balance School Buildings	33	0	6
				Balance Sunday School	10	0	0
	£64	4	6		£64	4	6

JULY 1904

The School

The Education Committee has decided to adopt H.M. Inspector's opinion that Cottage Gardening should be taught in school. The ground has been divided into eight plots, 30 feet by 10 feet each, for the eight boys over 11 years of age. Each will be responsible for his own plot. They will be taught all ordinary vegetable and flower growing, and also such things as budding and grafting.

It is hoped that Cookery may be added for the elder girls but this depends on other schools adopting it so as to make a sufficiently large class at a centre, like Reepham, for a special teacher to be sent over on certain dates.

AUGUST 1904

The proposal with regard to cookery classes was considered, and it was settled that our girls might attend classes in Reepham.

The Garden & Poultry Show

Fixed for Bank Holiday at Brandiston Hall, will contain some specimens of Booton skills and labour. The admission to the show will be 6d. from 2 to 5pm, and 3d. from 5 - 9pm; children under 12 half price at the gate.

A conjuring entertainment, a concert and a gramophone performance will succeed each other at short intervals through the afternoon and evening and there will be a Band and refreshment stall of different kinds, though none providing alcoholic drinks.

A proposal from the Education Committee that we should engage a pupil teacher, instead of a monitor, to fill Alice Smith's place, led to a long discussion and finally it was decided to dispense with assistance in the infants room altogether for a time, in order to see if it could be done without.

SEPTEMBER 1904

It is with great satisfaction that we notice that a Bill was brought out before Parliament, founded on the recommendation of a Royal Commission, to make smoking illegal among children and boys.

NOVEMBER 1904

Orders were made for repairing the see-saws and swings in the playground and for whitewashing the office and lobbies.

Some cases of children trespassing on their way home from school were considered, and they were ordered to be warned.

INTRODUCTION 1905

The notes for 1905 start on a rather low note with reports of declining attendances at church.

School attendances and success with learning the Catechism appears to be of far less concern than in previous years.

The support from the Parish for the little boy in India continues with reports that he has employment, of a kind, and apparently "has his own way of doing things".

JANUARY 1905

The year 1904 up to the time of writing has not been a particularly eventful one in the Parish. There have been no deaths at all actually in Booton, though there have been two Burials, and one of these was a very long-standing parishioner, Mrs. Gaff, who had but just moved away.

There have been 13 Baptisms but this does not at all represent the number of births. It is interesting that six of them were children of parents who had themselves been Booton children and who liked to bring their infants to the old home to be baptised; and thirteen children were from eight families, so some should have belonged to previous years.

There has been one Marriage. The Confirmations were four, which is about an average number for our population, though fewer than we have had for a year or two before, and owing to the high age set, one or two missed being confirmed, by leaving home just too soon.

Some of our Church statistics have fallen rather low. Church attendances have dropped, as far as can be roughly calculated by about 20 to 30 a week all through the year before. This is a good deal in a small Parish.

The Communion made will also total up to something like 80 less than last year and over 100 less than the year before. In such a matter it is not good to aim at mere numbers, but numbers are some indication of advance or going back.

Sewell's Charity Account for 1904

Receipts
Four Dividends of 12s. 2d. overdrawn

£.	s.	d.
2.	8.	8.
0.	0.	2.
£2.	8.	10.

Expenditure
Overdrawn December 1903
Nine Recipients at 5s.

£.	s.	d.
0.	3.	10.
2.	5.	0.
£2.	8.	10.

FEBRUARY 1905

Miss Holley signalised Christmas as usual by a plentiful distribution of gifts. The elders came in for coal, the juniors for garments and other presents, and the school children for a Treat on December 29th. There was not any set performance by the children as in other years but they sang some of the school songs, and the Rev. George Holley kindly amused them with a gramophone and some songs. The rest of the time was spent in games and tea.

Day School: The Managers' Quarterly Meeting

A drain in the school garden was approved, and a proposed one in the playground rejected. An application was ordered to be made by the Chairman of the Education Committee for an increase in Miss Gough's salary, to the amount paid to others of like standing. The application has at present been unsuccessful but the matter is still in hand.

MARCH 1905

The Day School

The Cookery class at Reepham came on us rather as a surprise, for the Education Committee officials somehow omitted to send us any notice of its commencement and only wrote when it was found that our children were not in attendance. The elder girls are attending the course which will include all kinds of plain cottage cookery and should be found very useful.

APRIL 1905

Baptism

Mary Ann Olley Lovick

Easter 1904 to Easter 1905

RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.
Balance, Easter 1904	0	6	0½
Gov't Grants (Arrears)	36	1	7
		3	
Needlework Sales	0	6	7
(Arrears)			
Rent of School House	10	0	0
	£45	6	2½

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Painting & Repairs	6	5	3
Garden Fencing &	3	9	7
Labour			
Medal & Certificates	0	7	10½
(1903-4)			
Insurance, Rent &	2	7	11
Rates			
Diocesan Associates	0	10	0
Fee			
In Hand	34	5	7
	£47	6	2½

Reserve Fund

RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.
Balance, Day School	33	0	6
Balance Sunday School	10	0	0
	£43	0	6

EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.
Playground Railing &	6	14	3
Drain			
Truck of Gravel	2	8	9
Sunday School Deficit	0	18	5
Balance Day School	23	17	6
Balance Sunday School	9	1	7
	£43	0	6

MAY 1905

The Catechism Quarterly Certificates:

Ivy Pigg, Herbert Ewing (Assistants), Arthur Ewing, George Bateman, Arthur Gaskins, Daisy Hall, Ethel Flatman and Arthur Flatman.

Children should not be sent to church on Sunday afternoons unless they are to be in the Catechism. The others hinder the work, without learning anything themselves.

JUNE 1905

Aylsham Exhibition

Miss Jane Coe's knitting was 'highly commended'. Our bent-iron exhibits could not get prizes for they had to compete against forge work, but they were well placed in the Exhibition and attracted a good deal of remark.

Nicomende has again changed his work. He has been promoted to the Mission House at Poona, and is being trained under the coachman with the hope that he may succeed to the office eventually. Father Elwin writes that Nicomende "thinks himself in clover sleeping at the bottom of the stairs at the Mission House".

Baptisms

May 7th Clifford William, son of Herbert & Lucy Bishop
Lewis Elwin, son of Richard Lewis & Charlotte James.

JULY 1905

The County Council Prize Scheme allows an Illuminated Certificate and a Book to every child who attended school regularly, without being absent or late, throughout every week except one (or two in the Infant class), in each quarter. In addition a medal is given to a child who has never been absent or late at all through the whole school year. Edith Lee and Frank Ewing both obtained medals for never being absent and they and William Gaskins, who had missed once, were also presented with a Certificate and Book.

AUGUST 1905

Day School Quarterly Meeting

A letter was read from Miss Gough, resigning her post as Teacher in the School on July 31st. Miss Gough has taught the Infant class for over seven years, obtaining goods results.

An application for the vacant post was received from Miss Ethel Gough and was accepted by the Managers.

Baptisms

June 29th Katherine, daughter of Charles Edward &
Eliza Elizabeth Stackwood
July 2nd Olive May, daughter of Seymour & Kate Jewell.

OCTOBER 1905

The Poona Collections for our Indian boy Nicomende will be on Sunday October 29th. We are pledged to raise £7 annually for his support. Nicomende was confirmed last July and is now a Communicant and regular at his duties. According to the latest account he was temporary coachman and helper at Yerendawna during the illness of the usual boy. We have not heard whether he has upset anybody yet, as he is said to have original ways of doing things. He will no doubt soon do so.

The building of the village Church at Yerendawna towards which we gave a collection 3 years ago, is now about to be begun.

Baptism and Burial

Frank Roberts, privately baptised on August 19th, and buried September 6th, aged 4 weeks.

NOVEMBER 1905

The School

Reference was made to a correspondence with the Education Committee and its Chairman on their practice of deducting £5 from the salaries of teachers who reside with their parents. Miss Ethel Gough's agreement as teacher was signed; and the tender for coal and passing of small accounts completed the business.

The Clothing Club

This year there have been 43 members at 2d. a week and 55 at 1d. The bonus was 4s. to the first and 2s. 2d. to the second.

DECEMBER 1905

Poona Working Parties

The Secretary writes, "Many thanks for the numerous nice things made for Poona Mission by the Mothers and Children of Booton". They are now on their way to India, and should arrive in time for Christmas.

Concert

The Reading Room Committee organised a concert in aid of the funds of the Room, on Thursday November 23rd. It was held in the School room which the members of the Committee transformed into an excellent room at short notice after school hours, and transformed it back ready for the next morning's School before they left it at night. The room was quite filled with an audience very largely drawn from Booton, and all seemed to appreciate the songs, each of which was encored in the first part, and would have been in the second, if time had allowed. As it was the concert lasted nearly three hours.

Songs

The work with the children has throughout been very happy. The Sunday Catechism and the choir have both been fruitful of results which have held good after children have grown up and gone away. It has been a great happiness to have been able to share with the Day and Sunday School teachers in working for our delightful children.

Sadly, soon after the 1905 notes it seems that the Reverend Elwin's health began to suffer. The Rev. W Elwin, author of the reports writes a farewell letter as he leaves the Parish in December 1907:

My Dear People,

I am sorry to leave Booton, and to leave you. But, if any doubts could have remained as to its necessity, my recent illness has settled the matter. For I am given to understand that I am not likely to be strong again at present, or capable of taking charge of a Parish by myself.

I have been most sorry to leave the Parish so neglected as it has been lately, with no week-day services and no visiting of the people. But it could not be helped. The task of finding a new Rector has proved most difficult. I have been writing and enquiring in every direction, day by day. The church and house may be attractive, but the work is on too small a scale, and the income so insufficient to meet the expenses, that one after another to whom it has been offered has been obliged to refuse it. However the matter is most happily settled at last.

The living has been accepted by the Rev. J Harry Buchanan, a clergyman whom you are fortunate in getting as your Rector. I know no-one to whom I could more happily hand over my work. He has great experience, and has been an excellent Parish Priest through a long course of years.

I have been holding back my resignation, and devoting the income to paying for clerical help until a successor could be found. My resignation now takes actual place on the 2nd of December. Mr Buchanan, however, cannot commence his work till January, for it takes a month to carry through the necessary formalities of appointing a new Rector.

Meantime, that the Parish may be put to no expense by my leaving, I am myself providing for a clergyman for the Sundays in December and for Christmas Day.

In looking back over the seven and a half years that I have been with you, I have to thank you all for a good deal of kindness. There is no house in the Parish in which I have not always been made welcome. You have been a friendly people to me.

I could wish that I had done more for your spirituality. It is a matter of very serious concern to me that the number of communicants has dropped, and that the congregations have been smaller than they used to be, at any rate in the second year of my ministry when church matters seemed to be going forward very encouragingly. I cannot help feeling that I must be chiefly responsible for this falling off. I trust it is only temporary.

The work with the children has throughout been very happy. The Sunday Catechism and the choir have both been fruitful of results which have held good after the children have grown up and gone away. It has been a great happiness to have been able to share with the Day and Sunday School Teachers in working for our delightful children.

Wishing you every blessing, in God's good hands.

I am yours affectionately

W Elwin